



Facts about Optimist International

Optimist International

Headquarters: St. Louis
Founded: 1919

Number of Optimist Clubs: 2,900
Number of Members: 91,000

Junior Optimist Octagon International

Youth Clubs Organization
Founded: 1988

Number of Youth Clubs: 700
Number of Members: 18,500

Major Service Programs

Optimist International Junior Golf Program: Optimist International Junior Golf Championships July 23-August 2, 2009, at PGA National Resort & Spa; Tournament of Champions November 7-8, 2009, at Orange County National Golf Center & Lodge; Optimist Golf Parent-Child Classic December 5-6, 2009, at *Disney's Lake Buena Vista* Golf Course

Optimist Childhood Cancer Campaign: The world's premier childhood cancer eradication program

Oratorical Contest: More than \$150,000 in scholarships awarded annually

Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Patterned after the Oratorical Contest

Essay Contest: \$12,000 in scholarships is split between top winners

Youth Safety: Youngsters learn safe use of bicycles, school buses, skates and the Internet

Youth Appreciation: Recognizes youth for a variety of accomplishments in school, extracurricular activities and the community

Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence

Scope of Service

More than 65,000 service projects annually

6 million youth directly served each year

More than \$78 million spent annually on community service projects

Officers (Year ending September 30, 2009)

President: Donald R. Sievers, Jackson, Missouri

President-Elect: Mark O. Shriver IV, Atlanta, Georgia

History

First Optimist Club: Optimist Club of Buffalo, New York, 1911

First International Convention: Louisville, Kentucky, June 1919

The Optimist Creed authored by Christian D. Larson in 1912, adopted by Optimist International in 1922

International Conventions

July 8-11, 2009 – Kissimmee, Florida

July 7-10, 2010 – Denver, Colorado

July 3-6, 2011 – Baltimore, Maryland